

Filed for intro on 05/03/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 329
By McKee

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Reverend Lee Paul and the members of the Friendship Baptist Church on being a beacon of light for 175 years.

WHEREAS, The Tennessee General Assembly is proud to salute churches which are celebrating significant anniversaries; and

WHEREAS, Friendship Baptist Church, nestled in the foothills of Polk County, is the oldest church in the Polk County Baptist Association, and has a dynamic history of 175 years of service to their community; and

WHEREAS, On the second Saturday in June, 1826, approximately ten men and women met in a dwelling house just North of what is now known as the Coe cemetery for the purpose of organizing the "Friendship Church"; and

WHEREAS, The first pastor of the new church was the Reverend Samuel Short, who did an outstanding job of organizing the new congregation and is buried in the Friendship Cemetery; and

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WHEREAS, The original building was used as a meeting place until 1856, when the second church building was constructed; and

WHEREAS, During its last years, around 1900, the second building was also used as a school until the county could construct its own building; and

WHEREAS, The only remnants of the school is the bell, located in the present church building, which has heralded people to church and school children to class; and

WHEREAS, Plans were made in 1908 to construct the present church building; and

WHEREAS, As Friendship grew, several additions were made to this building, in the 1950s and 1970s and, in the 1990s, a Fellowship Hall was built; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its exemplary ministry, Friendship Baptist Church has held many spirit-filled revivals, praise singings, and certain services which have become a time honored tradition including "All day singing and dinner-on-the-ground," which later became a homecoming, a tradition that continues on the first Sunday in July; and

WHEREAS, Under their inspirational current pastor Reverend Lee Paul, the Friendship Baptist Church has continued its long tradition of spreading the word and serving God, through his son, Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to reflect on the lasting impact this church and its leaders have had on their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Reverend Lee Paul and the members of the Friendship Baptist Church on the celebration of its 175th anniversary. On behalf of the numerous persons who have found God and Salvation through its excellent ministry we express our deepest appreciation and best wishes for future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

